



JUDICIAL BRANCH AUDIT

FY 2015 Audit. The Office of Auditor of State recently released the audit report on the Iowa Judicial Branch for FY 2015. The Iowa Judicial Branch is comprised of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the district courts, the clerks of court, and the State Court Administrator. The purpose of the Iowa Judicial Branch is to exercise general, general appellate, and original jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases and in all proceedings including probate and juvenile matters. The Iowa Judicial Branch determines rules for admission and discipline of the Iowa bar, adopts rules regulating appellate practice and procedures, and promulgates regulations of the Commission on Judicial Qualifications, the Board of Law Examiners, and the Board of Shorthand Reporters.

Audit Findings. The report makes the following findings related to internal control:

- Prepaid expenditures – One contract paid in FY 2015 included 11 months of service for FY 2016. This resulted in an understatement of prepaid expense of \$420,981. This was properly adjusted for reporting purposes.
- Interpreter compensation – During the review, the Auditor identified an interpreter contract that is billed on a per-minute basis for phone interpretive services. The calculated hourly rate of this contract exceeds the hourly rate permitted by an administrative directive of the State Court Administrator for court interpreter compensation. The directive does not include a per-minute rate for telephone interpreter services.

The report makes the following findings related to statutory requirements:

- Iowa Code Compliance – Section [73.16](#) of the Iowa Code requires the director of each state agency or department having purchasing authority, in cooperation with the Targeted Small Business (TSB) Marketing and Compliance Manager of the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), to establish a procurement goal for certified targeted small businesses each fiscal year. The procurement goal must include the procurement of goods and services, including construction but excluding utility services. The goal must be stated in terms of a dollar amount and at a level exceeding the procurement levels from certified targeted small businesses during the previous fiscal year. The TSB procurement goal for the Iowa Judicial Branch for FY 2015 was not set at a level exceeding FY 2014 actual TSB spending.

Recommendations and Responses. The Auditor made recommendations on compliance for all of the items outlined above. The Iowa Judicial Branch submitted responses for improvement that were accepted by the Auditor.

Additional Information. A full copy of the report is available for review in the Office of Auditor of State and on the Auditor of State website at <https://auditor.iowa.gov/reports/1660-4440-0R00>.

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